

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 /064 W  
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R 261135Z OCT 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9645  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE  
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 17626

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: MARR, XL, UK, SC, AV  
SUBJECT: ST. KITTS-NEVIS AND ANGUILLA

REF: STATE 233036

1. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED ST. KITTS, NEVIS AND ANGUILLA QUESTION (REFTEL) WITH FCO OFFICIALS. THEY SAID THAT WHILE PLANS ARE BEING FORMULATED TO BRING ST. KITTS-NEVIS AND ANGUILLA TO INDEPENDENCE AS A GROUP, ANGUILLA IS TO BE GIVEN THE OPTION OF SEPARATION FROM THE OTHER TWO AND REMAIN A DEPENDENCY. THIS PROCEDURE IS INTENDED PRIMARILY AS A FACE-SAVING DEVICE FOR BRADSHAW. NEVIS, HOWEVER, IS NOT TO BE GIVEN THE OPTION OF WITHDRAWAL, AND HMG BELIEVES THAT NEVISIAN OBJECTIONS CAN BE OVERCOME. IF UNREST SHOULD OCCUR ON NEVIS, HOWEVER, HMG BELIEVES BRADSHAW'S SECURITY FORCES ARE CAPABLE OF CONTROLLING THE SITUATION.

2. THE FCO APPARENTLY HAD INTENDED TO MOVE INDEPENDENCE ALONG MORE RAPIDLY THAN IS NOW PLANNED, BUT FCO POLITICAL LEADERSHIP DID NOT WISH TO MOVE TOO QUICKLY FOR FEAR OF UPSETTING LABOR BACKBENCHERS WHOSE CONSTITUENTS HAVE  
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INTERESTS IN THE ASSOCIATED STATE. EMBOFFS ALSO INFERRED FCO MAY BE CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE CONSERVATIVE REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL. BECAUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S MINORITY POSITION, THESE ARE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS. FROM OUR CONVERSATION, IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT FCO PLAN HAS BEEN VETTED BY CABINET.

3. THE CONCRETE FIRST STEP TOWARD INDEPENDENCE WILL BE A PRIVATE MEETING IN NEW YORK IN DECEMBER (DATE NOT YET SET) BETWEEN MINISTER OF STATE TED ROWLANDS AND BRADSHAW TO DISCUSS HMG'S PROPOSALS. FCO, HOWEVER, IS NOT CERTAIN BRADSHAW WILL AGREE TO ATTEND.

4. SHOULD BRADSHAW PRESENT NO INSURMOUNTABLE OBJECTIONS TO FCO PLANS AND SHOULD THERE BE NO OTHER HITCHES, A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE COULD BE HELD AS EARLY AS MAY 1978. ONCE THAT WAS OUT OF THE WAY, IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION WOULD HAVE TO BE PASSED. THE BEST CASE SCENARIO WOULD HAVE IT THROUGH PARLIAMENT BY OCTOBER 1978, WITH INDEPENDENCE GRANTED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

5. AT THIS POINT WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE A REALISTIC TIMETABLE FOR ST. KITTS-NEVIS INDEPENDENCE. THERE ARE JUST TOO MANY VARIABLES AND CONTINGENCIES, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH ARE THE PARLIAMENTARY SITUATION AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A GENERAL ELECTION BEFORE FALL OF 1978.

6. DOG ISLAND: UK WISHES TO HOLD OFF DOING ANYTHING CONCERNING DOG ISLAND UNTIL THE POLITICAL STATUS OF ANGUILLA IS SORTED OUT. FCO CONSIDERS THAT IT WOULD NOT BE PROVIDENT TO DO A SURVEY OF DOG ISLAND AT THIS TIME.  
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## Message Attributes

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